

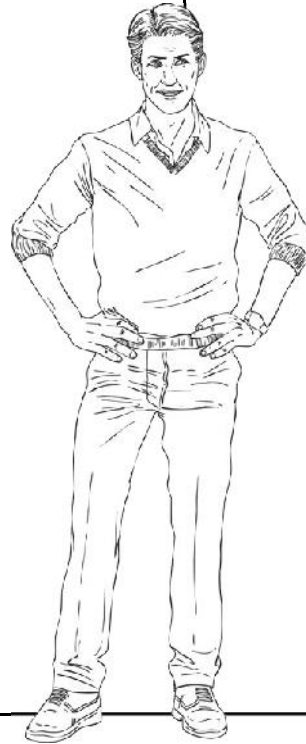
Comparing the Same Characters

Part A

In this activity, you will be comparing the different aspects of Dad's character.

Reread p.10-14 'Driving'. Dad's character is quite jokey, but he can also be serious. Using short phrases or paraphrases, give examples in the text where Dad is jokey and serious. Two examples are done for you.

Points in the text where Dad is joking	Points in the text where Dad is serious
<p><i>“It could be worse, though!” Dad continued in his normal voice.’ Dad’s introducing a joke in this bit.</i></p>	<p><i>Dad makes sure he talks quietly to Mom in the car so that August and Via won’t hear.</i></p>




Comparing the Same Characters

Part B

In this activity, you will be comparing the different ways August is treated by his parents.

August says he usually loves it when his parents talk about when he was a baby (p.12). Find and sort examples from p. 8-14 where his parents treat him as younger than his age (10) and those where they treat him as his age. Two examples are done for you.

Points in the text where his parents treat him younger	Points in the text where his parents treat him as his age
<p><i>They call him Auggie instead of August. That's like a young child's nickname.</i></p>	<p><i>"I'm not going to say it won't be a big challenge for you, because you know better than that." (p12) – Mom is crediting August with intelligence.</i></p>



Comparing the Same Characters **Answers**

Part A

Points in the text where Dad is joking	Points in the text where Dad is serious
<p><i>Various answers from p.10-14. Quotation or paraphrase, plus (depending on ability) justification of choice.</i></p> <p><i>E.g. "What? She had big cheeks is all I'm saying." Dad is pretending he doesn't know the other meaning of cheeks.</i></p> <p><i>The part where Dad pretends he doesn't know what 'cheeks' means.</i></p>	<p><i>Various answers from p. 10-14. Quotation or paraphrase, plus (depending on ability) justification of choice.</i></p> <p><i>E.g. "We both talked to him, yes," Dad is being straight with August.</i></p> <p><i>The part where Dad admits to being at the meeting with the principal.</i></p>

Part B

Points in the text where Dad is joking	Points in the text where Dad is serious
<p><i>Various answers from p. 8-14. Quotation or paraphrase, plus justification of choice.</i></p> <p><i>E.g. Dad 'carried me over to sit on his lap...' (p. 6). Dad is treating him as if he's a toddler.</i></p> <p><i>The point where Dad carried him to sit on his lap when August acted babyish. You'd treat a toddler or baby like that, not a 10-year old.</i></p>	<p><i>Various answers from p. 8-14. Quotation or paraphrase, plus justification of choice.</i></p> <p><i>E.g. "And that great shot of you holding that flounder in the boat." Dad deliberately refers to an achievement August is proud of.</i></p> <p><i>The point where Dad reminds August of the holiday in Montauk and the great picture they took. Dad deliberately reminds August of a photo where he looks happy and that he's proud of.</i></p>

Challenge Task

On page 10, 'Driving', Dad angrily describes sending August to middle school as 'like a lamb to the slaughter'. What does he mean? Find out where this phrase comes from and explain why dad might be using it here. Does it remind you of anything you've read earlier in the book?

Example answer:

Dad means that he thinks August will be bullied when he goes to school and that the other children will make life a misery for him. He thinks that by sending him to middle school, they are abandoning him to a terrible fate. Dad feels that August is an innocent being forced into a dangerous situation that he's ill-equipped to deal with. August will have no understanding that something bad will happen to him, but they know only too well what is likely to occur. He feels angry with August's mum for suggesting it.

Like a lamb to the slaughter is a biblical reference to a part of the Old Testament (Isaiah 53:7) where the prophet Isaiah writes about the future suffering of the coming servant of God (Christians would view this as the coming of Jesus); that he would be 'oppressed and afflicted' (he would suffer) and take this suffering silently 'like a lamb that is led to slaughter'. Dad doesn't mean the reference in a biblical sense – he's not obviously a practising Christian, as far as we can tell – it's just that he's using a common idiom.

It's like the nurse's, 'Everyone born of God overcometh the world,' when August was born. As it's a story from the bible, she probably was a practising Christian and meant it in a biblical way (it's from the Bible) whereas Dad probably doesn't.